

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for recording data on and/or reproducing data from an optical storage medium, the apparatus comprising:
 - a pickup to record data on and/or reproduce data from the optical storage medium;
 - a system controller that records write protection information for indicating one of a plurality of write protection statuses of the optical storage medium, each one of the plurality of write protection statuses indicating a size of a corresponding write protected area.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the size includes a portion of the data zone.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data zone includes a user data area and at least one of an inner spare area and an outer spare area.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the at least one of the inner and outer spare area is recordable.
5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the write protection indicates that only the user data area is write-protected.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one of the lead-in area and the lead-out area comprises a drive test zone and a disc identification zone, and the data zone includes at least one of an inner spare area and an outer spare area which are recordable.
7. An apparatus for recording data on and/or reproducing data from an optical storage medium, the apparatus comprising:
 - a pickup to record data on and/or reproduce data from the optical storage medium; and
 - a system controller that records write protection information for indicating a size of a write protected area as differentiated from a plurality of sizes of write protected areas.
8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein one of the sizes includes a portion of the data zone.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the data zone includes a user data area and at least one of an inner spare area and an outer spare area.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein if the user area has a defect area, at least one of the inner and outer spare areas is useable to replace the defect area.

11. An apparatus for recording data on and/or reproducing data from an optical storage medium, the apparatus comprising:

- a pickup to record data on and/or reproduce data from the optical storage medium;
- a system controller that records write protection information for indicating one of a plurality of write protection statuses of the optical storage medium, one of the statuses being to allow defect management of a write protected optical storage medium.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the data zone includes a user data area and at least one of an inner spare area and an outer spare area.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the at least one of the lead-in area and the lead-out area comprises a drive test zone and a disc identification zone; and the inner spare area and/or the outer spare area are recordable.

14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein if the user area has a defect area, at least one of the inner and outer spare areas is useable to replace the defect area.